

## THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

MACMAHON'S GOVERNMENT HOPEFUL OF A LEGISLATIVE MAJORITY.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]  
PARIS, Dec. 2, 1875.  
The MacMahon Ministry expect to obtain a large legislative majority at the general election for members of the Assembly.

## THE STEAMSHIP AMERIQUE.

THE DISABLED VESSEL SIGHTED OFF SCILLY.  
[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]  
LONDON, Dec. 2, 1875.

The French Transatlantic steamship *Amerique*, Captain Ponzola, from New York for Havre, has been seen off Scilly.

## HER VOYAGE.

The *Amerique* sailed from New York for Havre on the 13th of November. She was fallen in with on the 21st ult. in latitude 49 deg. north, longitude 30 deg. west, with main shaft broken. Thirteen cabin passengers and the mails were taken off by the steamship *China*, from Boston, and landed at Queenstown. The *Amerique* proceeded under sail.

## THE SUEZ CANAL.

WHY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO PURCHASE THE SHARES—FEAR OF A WAR WITH GERMANY.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE HERALD BY CABLE.]  
PARIS, Dec. 2, 1875.  
Duc Decazes, French Minister of Foreign Affairs, states that the reason why the government refused to purchase the Suez Canal shares when the property was tendered for sale to the Ministry was that MacMahon's Cabinet feared a war with Germany.

## HERZEGOVINA.

A TURKISH GARRISON SAID TO HAVE SURRENDERED TO THE INSURGENTS.

THE *Neue Freie Presse*, of this city, has received a special telegram from a Slavonian correspondent to the effect that the Turkish garrison of Goranok, consisting of two battalions, have surrendered to the insurgents unconditionally.

They were, in all probability, starved out.

THE PORT PROTESTS AGAINST MONTENEGROIN RELIGIOUSITY—THE GREAT POWERS SUPPORT THE SULTAN'S POSITION.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* this afternoon publishes a special telegram from Berlin, in which it is stated Turkey has energetically protested to Montenegro against the Montenegrins taking part in the Herzegovinian insurrection and that the great Powers support the protest.

## CENTRAL ASIA.

NATIVE ORGANIZATION AND OPPOSITION TO THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE—MUSCOVITE ASSAULT ON THE POSITION—THE ENEMIES OF THE CAZAR DEFEATED WITH HEAVY LOSS.

A Russian telegram, dated Khokand, November 30, says, notwithstanding their recent defeat at Namangan, the Kiptchaks assembled on the left banks of the Naryn and Syr-Daria rivers in large numbers. Their headquarters were at Balykchik, where they had concentrated to the number of 20,000.

RUSSIAN ASSAULT AND A SEVERE DEFEAT OF THE NATIVES.

The Russians, under General Skobelev, attacked the town on November 24. The Kiptchaks were defeated, with immense loss.

The Russian troops, after their victory, returned to Namangan.

It is believed that security is re-established on the right bank of the Syr-Daria.

## THE QUESTION OF THE EAST.

RUSO-GERMAN IMPERIALIST ACCORD RELATIVE TO THE CASE OF THE "SICK MAN."

A special despatch from Berlin to the *Morning Post* says it is reported that conferences between Bismarck, Gorstchakoff and the Austrian Ambassador have shown that the three Powers here represent are in perfect harmony on the Eastern question.

## EAST AFRICA.

EGYPTIAN ARMY ACTION—TERRITORIAL SEIZURES.

ADEN, Dec. 2, 1875.  
The Egyptian troops have occupied the districts of Juba and Kismayo, disarmed the Zanzibar forces there and hoisted the Turkish flag.

## THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AND SUITE HAVE ARRIVED AT KANDY.

THE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY ENCOURAGEMENT TO NATIONAL EXHIBITIONS.

BRUNNEN, Dec. 2, 1875.  
The federal council has passed a resolution adding 300,000 marks to the sum already allotted to facilitate and promote the display of German products at the Philadelphia Exhibition.

## LONDON CHANGE.

A GLOOMY "SETTLING DAY"—SIX FAILURES.

Yesterday was "settling day"—the last day of the regular semi-monthly account—at the Stock Exchange. A number of failures—more than usual—were reported.

There were rather large failures in the stock and share brokers, of No. 2 Cannon court, Old Broad street. Their liabilities are estimated at \$350,000.

There were also five other failures of lesser importance.

THE WEATHER IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, Dec. 2, 1875.  
The weather to-day in this vicinity is cold and snowy.

## VENEZUELA.

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 10, 1875.  
The German war steamer *Augusta* returned yesterday from Lagayta, Venezuela, and reports everything quiet.

Nothing new about the Dutch brig *Argo*. The master seems at present in *status quo*.

## PORTO RICO.

ST. THOMAS, Nov. 10, 1875.  
Everything is quiet in Porto Rico.

## SPAIN.

CABINET RESOLUTION FOR THE STAMPING OUT OF CARLISM.

MADRID, Dec. 2, 1875.  
A Cabinet council has decided upon the formation of two armies of five divisions each; one in Navarre, to be commanded by General Martinez Campos, and the other in the Basque provinces, to be commanded by General Quevedo.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES—REORGANIZATION OF THE CABINET.

MADRID, Dec. 2, 1875.  
The changes in the Cabinet went into effect to-day.

The following Ministers took the oath of office before the King:

Canovas del Castillo as President of the Ministerial Council.  
Calderon Collantes as Minister of Foreign Affairs.  
Marin Herrera as Minister of Justice.  
Senor Torneo as Minister of Public Works.

The other heads of departments remain unchanged. Collantes was offered the mission to Rome, but declined it, being unable to leave the city on account of domestic affairs. He was then transferred from the Ministry of Justice to that of Foreign Affairs.

## WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1875.  
There is no doubt at all that all the rumors of disagreement between the Cabinet are totally false. The relations between all the members of the Cabinet and the President were never more harmonious and cordial than now.

There is no disagreement on any question, either between the ministers themselves or between them and the President, and there is the best authority for saying that all the Cabinet are united upon the Cuban question and entirely agree with the views which the President will express in his message on that subject. These views, it is now said, will not be as extreme as rumors have asserted.

The message, it is reported by members of Congress in the confidence of the President, will not advise or propose either recognition or the granting of belligerent rights to the Cubans. It will, however, very plainly state the grievances of the United States and of American citizens at the hands of the Spaniards in Cuba, and will announce firmly that these wrongs must not only be remedied but must entirely cease for the future; and it is believed that the President will inform Congress that he has addressed a note to the Spanish government taking this ground in decided words and giving notice to Spain that if after the lapse of a specified period, probably five or six months, affairs in Cuba are not so managed by the Spanish authorities as to prevent wrongs and loss to American citizens, and to give prompt and satisfactory relief where wrong may be done in that case and at the expiration of such given period, this government will be constrained to adopt peremptory and effective measures for the protection of its citizens or in retaliation for wrongs done. In doing this Spain will be told there will be no intention, on the part of the United States, to rob her of Cuba, or to interfere with Spain's management of her colony. But that Spain must blame only herself for what may happen if she neglects to treat American citizens justly or rejects or puts off our just demands, and that, as she assumes over Cuba the rights of a sovereign, she cannot be allowed any longer by us to evade the proper responsibilities of a sovereign power to its friendly neighbors. If she is too weak to protect us we must protect ourselves.

It is positively asserted that the Cabinet are unanimously agreed to this declaration of policy, and it is said by Congressmen who are intimate at the White House that the recent naval preparations have been with a view to impress the Madrid government with the fact that this government is in earnest, and not with any idea that a war can grow out of the announcement to be made to Spain.

In regard to the whiskey prosecutions in St. Louis there is the best reason to believe that Secretary Bristow and the President are entirely in harmony and that Mr. Bristow will use every effort to bring all guilty persons to punishment, and feels that he has the President's full confidence and support in the matter.

General Babcock will not, it is said, leave the President, but if he should be indicted he will be tried at once. The President does not mean to part with General Babcock unless he is found to have been guilty, but he does not mean in any way to shield him, and has so signified to Secretary Bristow. The telegrams lately published relating to General Babcock were known here as much as two months ago and were not, therefore, a surprise to the officers of the Treasury Department. It is said that there are yet other which have not been published.

GENERAL BABCOCK DEMANDS A COURT OF INQUIRY.

General Babcock to-day addressed the following letter to the President:

SIR—On the 20th inst. in the trial of W. O. Avery, before the United States Court at St. Louis, Mo., one of the prosecuting attorneys, Hon. J. H. Henderson, introduced certain telegrams alleged to have been sent by me to Messrs. McDonald and Joynt, recently convicted of complicity in the whiskey frauds, and is reported in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* as having used the following language:—Here follows the language of Mr. Henderson, heretofore published, to the effect that he intended to prove that General Babcock was in the King. Upon being informed of this charge I telegraphed to D. P. Dyer, United States District Attorney at St. Louis, on the 30th ult., as follows:

I am absolutely innocent, and every telegram which I sent will appear perfectly innocent the moment I can be heard. I demand a hearing before the Court. When can I be heard?

And received upon the same day the following telegram:

The evidence in the Avery case is closed. The next case is the question of the competency of the jury for the 15th of December.

DAVID P. DYER, District Attorney.

The opportunity to answer the charges contained in the above speech had been thus denied me, and being left without any opportunity to explain myself, I respectfully demand a Court of Inquiry, and request that an immediate investigation be ordered.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours, etc.,

E. BABCOCK, Colonel of Engineers, United States Army. THE PRESIDENT.

SENATOR FERRY'S CONNECTION WITH THE RESUMPTION BILL.

Senator Ferry was not chairman of the committee of the Senate last winter, which drew up the Resumption bill. He wishes to explain this, and was misunderstood on this point in the interview accorded your correspondent last week. Senator Sherman, of Ohio, was the presiding officer of the committee, but Senator Ferry was a hard-working member thereof and gave the chair man all the help he could in getting at a definite result in obedience to the spirit of the resolution under which the committee was in deliberation.

THE AFFAIRS OF THE SECOND COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE—THE WITKOWSKI AND SUGG FORT CLAIMS.

The investigation into the affairs of the Second Comptroller's office in the Treasury Department, set about by the complaints about the facility with which the Witkowski and Sugg Fort fraudulent claims went through that office and were allowed and paid, is in progress with closed doors, but enough has transpired to show that the Deputy Comptroller and the Chief Clerk of the office will incur the censure of the committee. It seems that the Comptroller was absent when the claim was received from the Third Auditor's office, and that his place was filled by the Deputy Comptroller, who signed the papers, relying upon the examination given the claim by the Chief Clerk, an old and experienced official. This clerk is not suspected of any dishonesty in passing the claim, but is believed to have relaxed the usual closeness of his scrutiny of such papers, and to have carelessly certified to their correctness in this case.

SECRETARY CHANDLER'S DIFFICULTY—WANTED, AN INDIAN COMMISSIONER—THE COMING WAR ON THE RING.

There have been a great number of applications to Secretary Chandler for the office of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and the applicants generally promise abundant recommendations from members of Congress and are usually men in poor circumstances. It is said that Mr. Chandler holds that a man who applies for this office, on the face of it, is a man who the salary is very moderate, the responsibility and labor severe and there are no chances of making money honestly. Mr. Chandler is still slowly weeding out his department and is very anxious to find a competent and trustworthy man for Superintendent of Indian Affairs. When he sees this office

filled he means to begin a formal attack on the Indian Ring and intends to make clean work of it.

The report prevails to-day that Marcus L. Ward, of New Jersey, has been tendered the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Though not officially confirmed it appears to have a good foundation.

## GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1875.  
THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY ON THE TAXATION OF NATIONAL BANKS—THE POWER OF THE STATE TO IMPOSE TAXES—THE NEW YORK TAX COMMISSIONERS AND THE BANKS.

The following is an extract from that portion of the report of the Comptroller of the Currency referring to the taxation of national banks:

The Comptroller, in September last, issued a circular addressed to the national banks requesting their returns of State taxation for the years 1874 and 1875. The assessment for 1875 had not generally been made at that time, and the returns for that year were therefore meagre. The number of banks in operation during the year 1874 was 1,700, forty-one of which paid no State taxes, because they were organized after the assessment for the year had been made. The aggregate returns made to the Treasury of 1874 were classified by the Comptroller into three groups, which gives the amount of United States and State taxes and the rate of taxation in every State of the Union for that year. It is to be observed that the returns show that it appears that the national banks of the State of New York pay the highest bank taxes of any of the States of the Middle States.

An estimate of the total taxation of the national banks for the ten years ending in 1875 has been made, and a table of the results is given in the report. The Comptroller has heretofore in his reports called the attention of Congress to the fact that, while the national banks are subject to a tax upon their entire capital, which can be easily ascertained from their books and reports, and not infrequently upon the market value of their shares, other corporations, the amount of whose shares can be as readily obtained by appropriate legislation, are assessed at not one-half of their value, while private firms and individuals are almost wholly exempt from paying their share of the burden. The Comptroller recently received from the Comptroller of the Currency of the principal banks, one in the East and the other in the West, refer to this greatest of all economical subjects in such plain terms that he cannot forbear calling the attention of Congress to their suggestions:

Many of the shareholders of the national banks depend for their income chiefly upon the earnings of the banks. If the banks are assessed at a higher rate of taxation than the other corporations, the shareholders are forced to pay a higher rate of tax than the other corporations. A national bank in one of the Eastern cities recently refused to pay its taxes on the ground that the law was not interpreted by the different State courts in the same manner, and that it was neither equitable nor honest. A national bank in one of the Eastern cities recently refused to pay its taxes on the ground that the law was not interpreted by the different State courts in the same manner, and that it was neither equitable nor honest.

The Comptroller is understood to have held that the bank had no right to complain, since its shares were not taxed above their value, and that it was not for it to complain that the other corporations were assessed at a lower rate of tax. The Tax Commissioners of New York City propose to tax the banks of that city, national and State, not only upon the value of their shares, but upon the value of their capital. It is to be observed that the Comptroller of the Currency of the principal banks, one in the East and the other in the West, refer to this greatest of all economical subjects in such plain terms that he cannot forbear calling the attention of Congress to their suggestions:

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## THE SPEAKERSHIP.

Randall's Strength Still Waxing Stronger.

CONFERENCE OF THE CANDIDATES

Tammany's Corrupt Friendship Ruining Kerr's Chances.

COX'S COMPLIMENTARY VOTE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1875.

The great triangular contest for the Speakership has thus far, for the present, at least, with the rank and file of the crowd in Washington, the graver question of the rumored complications with Spain, which has made the air of the national capital so warlike for the past few weeks. The crowd at the hotels has diminished somewhat in the number of office-seekers, whose hopes of place have vanished with the drawing of the lines to a specified end. But the Congressmen are coming in by every train, particularly the democratic members of the House, whose presence is needed earlier and more urgently on account of the issue involved in the question of the Speakership. Of the 292 Representatives there are in town to-night about 180, and of these about 125 belong to the democratic side of the House.

ORGANIZATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

In the absence of a Congressional Democratic Committee, the last body of that kind having gone out of office with the Forty-third Congress, the organization of the democratic caucus, at which the Speakership is to be settled next Saturday, was assumed by the three candidates for Speaker, viz.—Messrs. Randall, Kerr and Cox, who assembled in conference this afternoon. The meeting of the three rivals was a very courteous and good-humored affair and was held in private. Anything like coolness was at once dispelled by the genial Sunset Cox, who opened the proceedings with a short speech, in which he said that as this august assemblage, representative of the wisdom of the democratic party of the United States, had for its object the election to the Speakership of no less a personage than the Hon. S. S. Cox, of New York, he was prepared to give it all the assistance in his power.

Laughter. This ally of the speaker, and a brief deliberation resulted in the selection of J. Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, for chairman of the caucus. It was then agreed that each candidate should appoint a teller and a secretary and that the chairman should appoint a committee of three to whom all resolutions introduced in the caucus should be referred without debate. The effect of this last measure will be to prevent acrimony on the floor of the caucus.

RANDALL'S STRENGTH GROWING.

The nomination of Randall is looked upon as a foregone conclusion. He not only holds all the strength which he did at the close of the exciting canvass last night, but several additional votes were pledged to him to-day and during the course of this evening. The very lowest of his vote on the first ballot is eighty-five, and there are struggles enough in the delegations not yet canvassed to assure him of not merely enough to nominate him, but of a handsome majority on the first formal ballot, which will be the second. Sunset Cox has so large a following of personal friends, anxious to do him honor, that he will be tendered a large complimentary vote on the first ballot. Kerr's chances have not been strengthened by this.

THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF THE FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

In coming here with money to help his canvass, the use of such unlawful means looking like corruption and bribery and reflecting seriously upon the innocent object of their attention. The desperate character of the Tammany movement in aid of Kerr is seen in the transfer of so many votes of Kelly and Wickham from the City Hall to the lobbies of the Washington hotels. The deliberate determination of Tammany to secure the Presidential nomination for somebody within its ranks or within its control is also the reason why some of the Southern Representatives still hold aloof from Randall, notwithstanding the bargain proposed.

THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS OF THE FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

It is a significant fact that money has been used or offered to be used only in the case of Kerr. It was perceptible to-day that he had lost ground in every direction. Thus, the North Carolina delegation held a meeting this afternoon and decided unanimously to go for Randall. Two of the Missouri men have pronounced for Randall, making three votes for him in that delegation. Governor Throckmorton is authority for saying that the Texas delegation is a unit for Randall, which is a plump vote of seven for him. The other Southern States known to be solid for him are Arkansas and Mississippi. Louisiana is in doubt, but leans strongly in the same direction.

KERR'S STRENGTH.

lies in Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Missouri and New York. He claims at least one-half of the New York delegation. The closest ciphering on his behalf in the whole number of democrats in the caucus gives him a total of only eighty-two votes. The discovery of this weakness greatly discouraged the Kerr movement this evening, and encouraged many to think that Sunset Cox's complimentary vote might be next to the vote for Randall. The Clerkship looks as if it would go to A. D. Banks, whose chances slowly but surely strengthen with those of Randall.

Indeed, there is little reason to doubt the success of "the shaver" made up the other night. For Speaker, Samuel J. Randall, of Pennsylvania (the East); for Clerk, A. D. Banks, of Mississippi (the South); for Sergeant-at-Arms, John G. Thompson, of Ohio (the West). There was some

DISCREPANCY IN THE TELLING.

again this evening at the Imperial Hotel. Randall opened the favorite at 20 against 16 for the field, and some nine pools were sold in this proportion, when a rumor got about that the Southern delegations were weakening on Randall, and some sales were made at an average of 30 for the field to 20 for Randall, and toward the close of the dealings he again went to the front and sold even for the field, the field comprising at least half a dozen candidates.

PRESS OPINIONS ON THE SPEAKERSHIP.

The colonial proportions of the joke of Hendricks being in favor of Kerr for Speaker begin to be appreciated in Washington. *Indianapolis Journal* (rep.). It is decidedly the fact that Mr. Randall appears to have the inside track in the race for the Speakership. *Philadelphia Bulletin* (rep.).

If there are not enough democratic votes to elect him we hope that he may receive some direct, practical assistance from the republican side of the House. *Philadelphia Bulletin* (rep.).

If we must have a democratic Speaker we should at least take good care that he is not a rag money advocate and a free trader. *Philadelphia Bulletin* (rep.).

Randall is getting the upper hold of the Speakership. *Cincinnati Times* (rep.).

A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Times* suggests that Goldsmith had a prescient eye to this mob of democratic candidates for the Speakership when he wrote:

Both mongrel, puppy, whelp and bound  
And Kerr of low degree.  
Shakespeare, now, was excusable for his gentle sarcasm on

The Cox shill crowd—  
Is he even deeper in his remark—  
Ships are but boards, Sayers but men; there is land  
rate and water rats, land thieves and water thieves.  
Wordsworth, on the other hand, becomes actually complimentary when he says:

Oh, me! how I should love a real Wood  
May teach you more of man,  
Of moral evil and of good,  
Than all the sages can.

And Fernando could certainly teach all this if he wanted to. But Wordsworth, too, had his likes and

## THE SPEAKERSHIP.

dislikes. His sympathies were evidently with New York, and he goes for the Cleveland candidate in a cruel fashion, speaking of those

Who, doomed to go in company with Payne,  
And for and bloodshed, miserable train!

The Southern candidate is dismissed by Pope with one contemptuous remark:

So shall he walk or die  
If the Capitol you'd keep from scandal,  
Elect the sound and upright Randall.

Mr. Randall is widely respected for his high personal integrity. In all his long and trying public career at Harrisburg and Washington he has borne himself so uprightly that not a suspicion exists of his having ever taken a bribe. He is pure, able, brave and patriotic, and nothing but good can come of his election to the Speakership. We are happy that there is no doubt of his election. *Philadelphia Item* (dem.).

The idea that Governor Hendricks is moved deeply to secure the Speakership for Kerr is rather refreshing to those who know the true inwardness of the Governor's feelings. *Indianapolis Journal* (rep.).

Naturally Mr. Randall is a modest man, of